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## FACING UP TO JEOPARDY

Gen Maxwell D. Taylor, former Army Chief of Staff, has been recalled from retirement at a time when this country's world position, and especially its three key alliances, are badly shaken.

The 15th United Nations General Assembly last week-end rejected a proposal, supported by the United States, to give the Organization of American States primary responsibility for the Cuban problem. Will the division in this hemisphere revealed by the vote now encourage Nikita Khrushchev to move dangerously in this country's back yard?

Will revolt by the army of France, continental European key to the North American Treaty Alliance, tempt Khrushchev to precipitate a Berlin crisis, as the German kaiser was tempted to invade Belgium in 1914 by the resignation of British army officers, who had declined to "coerce Ulster" on Irish Home Rule?

What will happen to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, three of whose members, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan, are especially worried about Communist gains in Laos, whose location is strategically important? Secretary of State Rusk believes there will soon be a cease-fire there, but Russia can still stall interminably, and the best the West can expect from negotiations is a neutralist government in which Communists would participate. What that would mean should now be obvious to all.

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Crises there will almost certainly be, but Khrushchev will probably not push them to the point of war. American rockets can carry nuclear warheads to any point in the world. Five Polaris submarines, mobile, hidden missile bases, discourage possible hopes of

knocking out this country's retaliatory power by surprise attack. Chances are that the American bomber fleet would still prove decisive.

Russian foreign policy, though always aggressive, has also been as cautious under commissars as it was under czars. President Kennedy's warnings should encourage prudence in Khrushchev regarding Latin America, and probably Berlin as well. Whatever may happen in landlocked Laos, the West's position is stronger in adjoining, accessible South Viet Nam, where President Ngo Dinh Diem recently won re-election, and has received offers of quick, effective American military support. Mr. Rusk points up the value this country places in even its weakest alliance by attending a conference in Turkey this week of the Central Treaty Organization foreign ministers.

However disturbing the weeks ahead seem likely to prove, Gen Taylor was recalled with a more distant future in mind. He retired in protest against the preceding administration's refusal to develop the Army's capacity for limited war with conventional weapons. In that view he has had Mr. Kennedy's support. His primary task now will be to study this country's Central Intelligence Agency, and its ability in paramilitary and guerrilla operations, with the Cuban failure in mind.

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The CIA, 14 years of age, is an infant compared with similar European agencies which are centuries old. Paramilitary and guerrilla operations call for men trained in armed conflict. But intelligence and irregular campaigning also require political acumen. Gen Taylor comes of a line of distinguished Army commanders who have demonstrated a broad outlook. He will need breadth as well as keenness in seeking the answer to the dangerous riddle confronting Mr. Kennedy: How to prevent Communist take-overs of vulnerable areas by infiltration?

UNCLE DUDLEY